

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC MEETING: December 9, 2009 at the Southside Virginia Community College, Workforce Development Center – Room 108, at the corner of US Rt.1 and Rt.46, 109 Campus Drive, Alberta, VA 23821. An afternoon public meeting will be held from 2-4pm.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are presenting the final draft report of a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and a public meeting.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality of the recreation/swimming use of portions of the Meherrin River and its tributaries to include Briery Branch, Genito Creek, and Great Creek which are impaired for the recreational use (swimming) due to exceedances of the bacteria water quality standard.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: Virginia agencies have been working to identify sources of the bacterial contamination in portions of the Meherrin River and its tributaries. The bacterial impairments span a total of approximately 70 miles.

Stream	County	Impairment Length (mi)	Impairment
North Meherrin River	Lunenburg	7.55	Recreational (swimming) Use
Meherrin River	Brunswick	26.14	
Briery Branch	Brunswick	3.97	
Gentio Creek	Brunswick	7.89	
Great Creek	Brunswick	24.34	
Total Impaired Length		69.89	

The study reports the current status of these waterways via sampling performed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the possible sources of bacterial contamination. The study recommends total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, for the impaired River and Creek segments. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels have to be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, which will expire on, January 8, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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